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Elimination of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion

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Report of the Secretary-General**

Addendum

II. Replies received from Governments

Iran

[Original: English]
[23 July 2002]

1. The General Assembly of the United Nations adopted, successively, resolutions 51/22, 53/10 and 55/6, in which it expressed its deep concern at the negative impact of unilaterally imposed extraterritorial coercive economic measures on trade, financial and economic cooperation, including trade and cooperation at the regional level, as well as serious obstacles to the free flow of trade and capital at the regional and international levels.

2. The Member States, in adopting these resolutions, have rejected the application of extraterritorial coercive economic measures or legislative enactments unilaterally imposed by any State. They have also called for the repeal of unilateral extraterritorial laws that impose sanctions on corporations and nationals of other States.

3. Promulgation and application of laws or regulations that have extraterritorial effect or that affect the sovereignty of other States and the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction — a clear violation of the universally accepted principles of international law — has been strongly rejected on various occasions by the overwhelming majority of States.

4. The South Summit, held at Havana, and the recent Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned countries, held at Durban, South Africa, have called for the elimination and rejection of coercive economic and extraterritorial implementation of such laws against developing countries.

5. Simultaneously, an increasing number of voices in multilateral forums, regional bodies and the private sector have joined the international community and called for the total elimination and lifting of unilateral

* A/57/150.
** The replies reproduced in the present document were received after the original report was submitted for publication.

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extraterritorial and other forms of coercive economic measures.

6. Coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion, in particular through the enactment of extraterritorial legislation, are not only against the well-recognized provisions and principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, but also threaten the basic fabric of international peace, security and stability and violate the sovereignty of States. They also impede and constrain settlement of disputes through the promotion of mutual dialogue, understanding and peaceful means.

7. In an era of rapid and unprecedented change, the world needs peace, security and stability, which could be strengthened through the collective responsibility of countries and also through, inter alia, respect for sovereignty, rejection of interference in the internal affairs of other States, refraining from compulsion and intimidation, as well as the creation of an enabling environment for replacing conflict and unequal relations with dialogue and negotiations.

8. Such coercive measures have a serious adverse impact on the overall economic, commercial, political, social and cultural life of the targeted countries, and intensify the challenges they face in a time of globalization and its concomitant traumatic transformations. Moreover, they have an adverse impact on the transfer of technology, increase the rate of investment risks, threaten financial and monetary management, weaken industrial and agricultural infrastructures and undermine the commercial policies of the targeted countries.

9. Such measures reduce existing actual and potential capacities of targeted countries in the very important areas of health and education, which are basic elements in every social welfare programme. This in itself delays the development of their economic infrastructure and results in further exacerbation of regional social and economic outlook.

10. Enforcement of unilateral coercive economic measures, in defiance of the Charter, has inflicted grave and irreparable losses, including a heavy financial and human toll, on the targeted countries. To this effect, the Islamic Republic of Iran, as one of the affected countries, reserves its right to pursue its financial and intellectual claims and lodge its complaint against Governments enacting those measures, through the adoption of concrete actions. All countries should, in the true spirit of multilateralism and sincere observance of international laws and regulations, avoid resorting to and enacting such measures.

Jamaica

[Original: English]
[28 June 2002]

1. The Government of Jamaica has repeatedly supported the resolutions of the General Assembly to date, in which it condemns the use of unilateral extraterritorial coercive economic measures as a means of political and economic compulsion. Such practices are contrary to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law.

2. Unilateral coercive economic measures threaten the sovereignty of States, with deleterious effects on all aspects of their development. As a method of economic or political compulsion, they are an affront to the targeted State and compromise its economic, political and cultural identity. They affect the most vulnerable groups in society, including women, children and the disabled.

3. In accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 55/6, Jamaica recognizes the universal, inalienable and sovereign rights of all States, including the right to economic, social and cultural development, political status and self-determination.

4. Therefore, Jamaica has never adopted unilaterally any legislation or measure with the intent or effect of extraterritorial coercion as a means of political and/or economic compulsion.

Qatar

[Original: Arabic]
[June 2002]

1. The Government of the State of Qatar has consistently opposed the imposition of unilateral sanctions on a sovereign State. The imposition of sanctions on other countries with a view to economic interests or the achievement of political ends constitutes a violation of the principle of sovereign equality and the right to self-determination, as set forth in the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the United Nations. It is also incompatible with the development of friendly relations and the strengthening of international cooperation among Member States.

Article 32 of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 3281 (XXIX), states: "No State may use or encourage the use of economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights".

2. The General Assembly, in resolution 53/10, also reaffirmed the inalienable right of every State to choose the political, economic and social system that it deems to be the most appropriate for the welfare of its people, in accordance with its national plans and policies.

3. The State of Qatar therefore affirms its categorical rejection of all attempts aimed at the extraterritorial application of domestic laws to nationals or corporations of third countries for the purpose of coercing other countries to comply with unilaterally adopted economic measures, which is contradictory to international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

Namibia

[Original: English]
[13 June 2002]

The Government of the Republic of Namibia does not have unilateral extraterritorial laws that impose coercive economic measures, contrary to international law, on corporations and nationals of other States. Such laws are not recognized by Namibia, since they violate the principles and objective of the Charter of the United Nations.